



Issue 5

I magination and C reation with T echnology

This issue:

- Literacy resources
- Myoats
- Build your wild self
- Blog platforms
- Infographics
- QR Codes



Issue 5

Coming up in the school holidays is a [free two-day conference](#) run by Electroboard, the suppliers of our SMARTboards. The schedule looks great and caters for beginners to advanced users. There are some good keynote speakers and workshops covering a range of KLAS. A big drawcard is the NSWIT registered hours some workshops offer.

This term, there have been a few important pieces of information about your SMARTboards and computers in the weekly bulletin from Cate. Please check these regularly. Anything urgent will be emailed out to the newsletter mailing list.

Reminders!

- Clean SMARTboards with windex and a microfibre cloth
- Projector filters need regular cleaning, but



DON'T use water! Just tap the dust off.

- If kids are having trouble moving objects on the SMARTboard, knuckles often work better than fingers
- If kids have trouble with logins, have them click **ok** instead of using **enter** to submit their passwords
- Log any issues in [ICT in the Bowl](#) as soon as possible. If you provide enough information, your problem could be solved within hours.
- Before you plan an online lesson with your class, run all the websites through the Internet Filtering Check in the My Applications tab of the portal.
- There's a great set of posters up in the staffroom just near the printer. Loads of tips and tricks to make computer work a little easier.

Literacy WEBSITES...

[Interactive Reading Comprehension Resources for Grades 3-5](#)

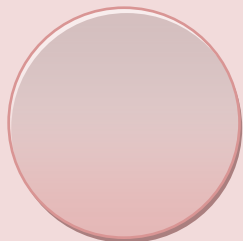
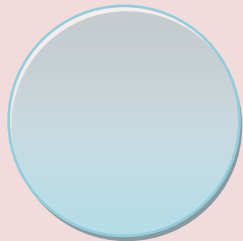
- Links to a variety of activities on topics such as author's purpose, cause and effect, characterisation and many more. Most of the topics covered by this site have been identified as areas of need in our NAPLAN.

[Reading Graphic Organisers and Printables](#)

- A list of PDF and Doc files with templates and proformas for a range of literacy tasks. Similar to the purple Reflect, Revisit Retell book. Suitable for K-6.

[National Geographic Readers](#)

- A link to National Geographic ebooks. Suitable for infants and lower primary. There is an audio option on the page and each word is highlighted as it is read. American accent.



Have you....

...had your kids change their internet password? They need to do this for security, just as we do.

**WEBSITE...**

[Myoats](#) is an amazing web tool that lets you draw designs and patterns. The drawings can then be downloaded and saved.

This site ties in nicely with lessons on reflection and symmetry.

It is relatively easy, but there are a few ways of tweaking the design, so have a good play around with it before introducing the students.

Have you ever...

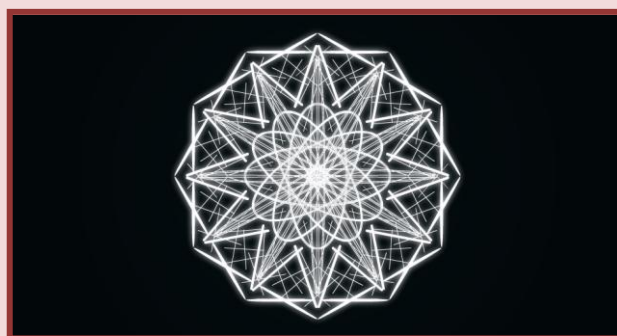
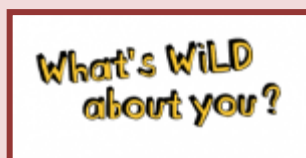
...considered keeping a blog as a professional portfolio?

A blog is a simple platform to showcase your achievements and creativity.

It's very easy to link to your blog in a CV.

Some of the more popular blogging platforms are...

[Edublogs](#)
[Blogspot](#)
[Wordpress](#)
[Posterous](#)

**WEBSITE...**

[Build Your Wild Self](#) is a great website, powered by the New York Zoo. Students follow the prompts to build an avatar of themselves, then give it various animal features. Students will have lots of fun giving themselves an alligator mouth, a seal body and frog arms.

Once their 'wild self' is finished, they are provided with small, easy-to-read pieces of information about the animal features they have chosen. They can then email the picture to themselves or their teacher to print. This could be a great starter for descriptive writing tasks, or even an imaginative story.



INFO...**What is an Infographic?**

An infographic is a visual representation that makes it much easier to understand complex information. Infographics can be as simple as column graphs and Venn diagrams, or as complex as the one to the right. These ones are harder to make, but there are many of them on the internet, just Google 'infographic' and include a topic.

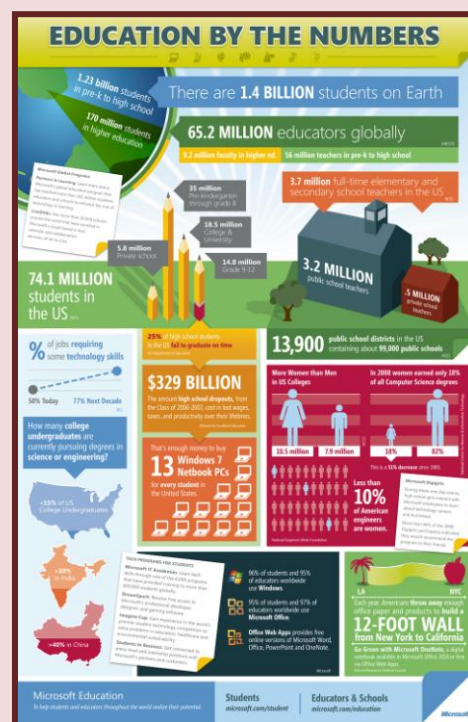
There are many tools online that will help you to build the kind of infographic that is right for your students.

[Wordle](#) is a simple method of creating an infographic. It is not just a decorative tool, but can be used to represent and prompt discussion of the frequency of ideas and terminology.

[Online Chart Tool](#) gives you similar graphs and charts to Excel, but works from your browser. Very simple interface.

[Diagrammr](#) creates simple flow charts when you type in 3 word sentences.

[Simile Widgets](#) has several tools for creating interactive infographics.



Click [here](#) for full-size version

**WEBTOOLS....****QR Codes****Follow the Leaders...****[The Pursuit of Technology Integration Happiness](#)**

A blog created by an American teacher to share ICT resources and discuss educational issues.

Contains articles, tutorials, subject-based resources and Web 2.0 resources.

You can follow this blog via email or RSS feeds.

QR Codes are similar to barcodes, but are scanned with the camera in a smart phone. The QR code can contain different kinds of information, but usually give a piece of text (black code above), or a link to a website (purple code above). They are very easily created online in websites like [Qurify](#), [QRStuff](#) and [Delivr](#).

To read the QR code, you need to download a QR code reader such as [QuickMark](#) to your phone.

QuickMark QR Reader is also available for your computer. The code is scanned in using a webcam.

How can you use this in the classroom?

Make QR codes, print and attach them to images you have on display. Students can then take the code to the computer, scan it with a camera and go directly to a website you have selected.

You could attach QR codes to maths posters and link to instructional games or videos. Attach them to unit related images and send students to appropriate research sites.

Other ideas? Let us know in the ICT blog.